

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 4, 2017**

The Jasper County Commissioners met this date at 8:15 A.M. C.S.T., in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Kendell Culp, James A. Walstra and Richard E. Maxwell. Also present were Auditor Kimberly K. Grow, Deputy Auditor Tina M. Porter, Highway Engineer / Supervisor Jack R. Haberlin and the Attorney that represents the Commissioners, Eric J. Beaver. The meeting was called to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Army Veteran Ron Koebecke.

PAYROLL CLAIM AND ALLOWANCE DOCKET: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the Payroll Claim and Allowance Docket for the check dates equal to November 15, 2017 and November 30, 2017. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MINUTES: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular November 6, 2017 meeting and the Executive Session on November 6, 2017. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

AGENDA: Mr. Culp stated that the agenda as shown on the screen has changed slightly.

BURIED CABLE: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the following buried cable request from CenturyLink. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

Permit No 747	For the purpose of installing new fiber optic cable on County Road 580 West. They will be going under County Roads 1800 South and 580 West. The project will be all bored.
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JAMES STRADLING / INDIAN TRAILS CAREER COOPERATIVE / SKILL-UP GRANT: Mr. Stradling, Director of Indian Trails Career Cooperative, was present and stated that Indian Trails is a cooperative of ten schools in Newton, Jasper, White, Carroll and Pulaski counties. Indian Trails coordinates their career and technical education programs. He explained the Skill-Up grant, which is a three to one matching grant that is being offered by the Governor. Previously, the grant was awarded by County and is currently being awarded by region. Jasper, Newton and Pulaski were in Region One and White and Carroll were in Region Four. Mr. Stradling said he received permission to make the five Counties one region. He passed out a pamphlet that contained the Governor's explanation of the grant, a one page summary about the grant and a letter of support from Jasper County's new Economic Development Director. He explained that one of the challenges they are facing is that the baby boomers make up almost one-third of the workforce in welding and health careers. He said he talked to the Economic Development Director from each county as well as Franciscan, Chief's and Talbert's to find out what they believe will be their biggest challenges in the next few years. He said, according to the Census, all five counties are showing negative growth. Indian Trails is looking to build internships in order to entice high school graduates to stay and work in Jasper County once they complete their internship. Another challenge is that there are numerous students that aren't even aware of what's available to them in the county. He stated that he is asking for \$100,000.00 from each County. If the County agrees to contribute the money, the money will go to the Community Foundation. If the Lilly Foundation agrees to give a matching grant to the Community Foundation, the money will be shown in the books and will help the community receive more grant money. Mr. Culp mentioned a partnership between Talbert's and Rensselaer High School where Talbert's furnished the equipment and the trainer. Mr. Stradling replied that Rensselaer has hired a full-time welding teacher. He said that eighty-five to ninety percent of the classes offered through Indian Trails are dual credit classes. When asked by Mr. Culp if he has a proposed budget or business plan, Mr. Stradling replied that a lot of the money will be used towards equipment. They will also be using money for transportation and supplies and are looking to hire someone to approach employers to find out what their needs are. Indian Trails is currently funded through each of the schools, but for the most part, that funding only pays Mr. Stradling's wages. He said his total yearly operating budget is \$200,000.00. Mr. Culp asked if all Jasper County schools are part of Indian Trails. Mr. Stradling replied that Kankakee Valley left Indian Trails as of July 1, 2017 to join Lake County. He said that the cooperative shares programs and students. He said that the grant is due December 15, although he doesn't need the money in hand until January 1, 2018.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

JAMES STRADLING / INDIAN TRAILS CAREER COOPERATIVE / SKILL-UP GRANT CONT'D: They currently have \$230,000.00; having received \$100,000.00 from White County, \$100,000.00 from Newton County and small donations from NIPSCO, REMC and some community foundations. Mr. Culp explained to Mr. Stradling that the County recently adopted the budget and this money is not in the budget. He said that a good portion of Jasper County's population attends Kankakee Valley High School so he would like to talk to the superintendent. He doesn't feel that the County should pay \$100,000.00 if Kankakee Valley is not a part of it. Mr. Maxwell stated that the Council should be the ones to decide on the figure. Mr. Walstra also agrees that, with KV not a part of it, it doesn't seem fair to charge the County the full amount. Mr. Stradling stated that they would take KV students to which Mr. Walstra replied, saying that KV will not get involved because they've had a bad experience. There was discussion about future funding. Mr. Stradling stated that he believes they will be able to sustain. The biggest expenses will be the equipment purchases. Mr. Culp told Mr. Stradling that the County is unable to meet the December 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Stradling said he will try to get a postponement from the Governor and would like to be put on the Council's agenda.

JANETT KINGMAN / JUDY KANNE / JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY / SCHOOL ENROLLMENT & ATTENDANCE RECORDS IN THE BASEMENT: Mrs. Kingman and Mrs. Kanney were present to request permission to borrow books from the basement to scan to make the scanned images a part of the Historical Society. The information that these books contain are examination records, school reports, enrollment reports, stories and poems written by Jasper County children about the Louisiana Purchase, teacher's term reports, records of graduates and attendance reports. Mrs. Kingman and Mrs. Kanne provided the Commissioners with a list of forty-one books and ledgers that range from 1888 through 1964. Mr. Culp asked Auditor Grow if there would be an issue with the books being removed from the building and she replied that there would not be. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the request from the Historical Society to borrow books and ledgers to scan. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. There was a brief discussion about letting the Historical Society take possession of the books in order to preserve the originals. It was stated that this could be revisited in the future.

MARY SCHEURICH / AMENDMENT TO THE UDO FOR WIND FARM OVERLAY: Mrs. Scheurich stated that this came with a favorable recommendation from the Plan Commission. There are wind companies currently interested in Jasper County. It was discovered that the UDO is out of date and needs to be changed to be more workable. The changes are as follows: the height of the tower has been changed to 1.1 times the height of the tower as opposed to a specific height per feet, the noise decibel level was changed and a section has been added regarding proof of correspondence with wildlife agencies. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the change to the UDO. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

MARY SCHEURICH / CREDIT CARD PROCESSING: Attorney Beaver stated that he has a roster of department heads that either do or do not wish to process credit card payments. The Treasurer has been using Point & Pay since approximately 2008, which is not affiliated with Gov Pay Net. He proposed to the Commissioners that we proceed with Gov Pay Net and keep the contract with Point & Pay for the Treasurer since she is happy with Point & Pay. He stated that he did not bring the list to the meeting, but would like to make mention that Community Corrections would like residents to be able to pay fees using credit cards. When it was discussed years ago, it was determined that the fee percentage for using a credit card would not be in the residents' best interest. Mr. Haberland stated that Ms. Witherington doesn't feel that the Highway Department needs the ability to accept credit cards since they rarely have people asking to pay with a credit card. Attorney Beaver stated that he approves of Gov Pay Net's standard terms and conditions. The Clerk, Recorder and Sheriff's Department all currently use Gov Pay Net. He said that the Health Department is not interested in receiving credit card payments. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve Mrs. Scheurich moving forward with Gov Pay Net. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

GREG SATOSKI / ROAD BONDING: Mr. Satoski was present and stated that he's trying to dig two thirteen acre ponds on his property near Jasper Pulaski and is trying to seek tentative approval on a couple truck routes to have the approximately 600,000 yards of sand removed from his property.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

GREG SATOSKI / ROAD BONDING CONT'D: He provided the Commissioners with three routes, which are County Road 850 North to Pulaski County, County Road 900 North to Route 49 and County Road 300 East to Route 10. Mr. Culp informed Attorney Beaver that Mr. Satoski appeared before the Drainage Board. The property that he would like to mine the sand from has regulated drains located on it. From Drainage Board, it went before Board of Zoning and Appeals and was tabled, one of the reasons being that he didn't have Drainage Board approval. At that time, bonding of roads was brought up. Attorney Beaver stated that the Commissioners have jurisdiction over the weight limit on county roads. Mr. Satoski stated that Pulaski County does not bond roads; however, with a project this large, they would like him to obtain a \$40,000.00 bond on the half-mile of road from the Jasper-Pulaski County line to Highway 143. Mr. Culp informed him that he would not be able to travel the roads during the frost law time period. Mr. Satoski stated that he will not be the one bonding the roads but rather, the contractor will be obtaining the bonds. Mr. Walstra and Mr. Maxwell informed Mr. Satoski that he will be responsible for obtaining the bonds. Mr. Satoski stated that it was said during a Plan Commission meeting that the contractor is responsible for bonding the roads. Mr. Walstra told him that that may be the case for the project that was discussed during that meeting, but in this case, Mr. Satoski will be bonding the roads. Mr. Satoski agreed to bond the roads and said that he would add it on to the cost of the project and asked how long he has to keep the bond. Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Walstra told him that the bond has to stay in place until the project is complete. Mr. Walstra advised him to take pictures or video of the road once the project is complete. Sheriff Risner stated that the County would need to consider how the frost law is going to be enforced if there are multiple contractors. Mr. Satoski said the Plan Commission wants information on the route and how bonding would be approved. Mr. Culp told him that he could tell the Plan Commission that the routes were presented to the Commissioners. If the Plan Commission approves, he would need to be in contact with Mr. Haberlin at the Highway Department and he can direct exactly what route would need to be taken, at which time the bond would need to be put in place. Mr. Maxwell stated that he doesn't like the idea of three roads. It was stated that the route will be dependent on which direction the company that's purchasing the sand will be going. Sheriff Risner expressed concerns he has with the routes and the safety of the general public. County Road 300 East going north has curves and there are busses that travel that road. The curve at County Road 1100 North has poor visibility for southbound traffic, especially when foliage is up. County Road 900 North to State Road 49 has hills and is fairly heavily traveled, especially during hunting season. Depending on the time of year that the mining is being done, he believes that there will be a traffic safety issue unless they use Route 143 to Highway 421. He doesn't believe 300 East and 900 North will hold up to that load level. There are a couple subdivisions and several duplexes near the roadway on 900 North near County Road 100 East. Mr. Satoski asked if all the sand is sold to one contractor, can the contractor bond the road. Mr. Walstra replied that there will be more than one contractor. He then told Mr. Satoski again that he will be responsible for bonding the road, which he then agreed to. The Commissioners gave him proposed permission to go east on County Road 850 North past Jasper Pulaski.

SHERIFF RISNER / REQUEST TO FILL VACANCY / HEALTH INSURANCE: Sheriff Risner requested permission to replace a part-time Courthouse Security Officer that has taken a position with the Lake County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the replacement of a part-time Courthouse Security Officer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

He brought a handout titled Statistical Analysis Findings prepared by Kevin Lewis. Many of his staff were also in attendance, including Merit Deputies and staff from the Communications Division. He stated that, with the increase in the employee share of the health insurance premium, it has set the employees back to 2009 in regards to buying power and creates a hardship on families. He stated that Sergeant Lewis has contacted other counties to inquire about their health insurance plans. Sheriff Risner asked the Commissioners about the possibility of forming a county-wide committee that could look at different plan avenues, with the Commissioners still having the final say. He said that higher deductibles and HRA's could save the employee and the County money. He talked about the health insurance plan that Jasper County REMC has in place. He said that it costs \$100,000.00 to replace a Merit Deputy and expressed concern that he will lose employees if we can't address this issue. Mr. Culp referred to insurance documents from 2004. He stated that the County share per employee at the time was \$8,500.00.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

SHERIFF RISNER / REQUEST TO FILL VACANCY / HEALTH INSURANCE CONT'D: In 2005, the County share was \$11,000.00. For 2018, the County share is \$25,770.00. He further stated that, while it is tough on the families, it's also tough on the County. The County is \$500,000.00 over budget on health insurance, which makes up the single largest line item in the Commissioners budget. Looking at the figures, he said they decided that we need to get back in line with the budget. He said that he agrees with a committee being formed. Since the 2018 plan was chosen, he has obtained plan information from Purdue and Kankakee Valley School Corporation. KV Schools have three options available to their employees. He said that health care costs are a national problem. Mr. Maxwell added that he obtained plan information from four other counties and the Commissioners are all looking at ways to lower costs. He said that a higher deductible will not make up a \$500,000.00 shortfall. Mr. Walstra explained that the County's health insurance is a "Cadillac" plan. They just added \$50,000.00 in coverage for air helicopters and there is also transplant coverage. He said they could cut the coverage back. He further stated that the County had large exposure last year, which negatively affected the rates. He is open to looking at offering the employee a choice between three plans and stated that they will be working hard on insurance over the next year. There was discussion on when the best time would be to set up an insurance committee. Mr. Jack Fagen explained that setting up a committee is a year-long process and should be done sooner rather than later. Mr. Culp recommends having someone to represent each tier group. Cutting the insurance back to make it more affordable would mean that the coverage wouldn't be as good. The increases over the years have been absorbed by the County, which the County can't afford to continue doing. Sheriff Risner mentioned a Committee consisting of every Department Head, but was told by Mr. Maxwell that that would be too large of a committee. The Commissioners agreed on appointing a committee with the help of Mr. Fagen and Mr. Fagen at Financial Arts. The appointments will be made when the other board appointments are done after the first of the year. Mr. Dan Fagen stated that, to work with a health insurance committee, there would be no charge. If all employee benefits will be addressed, there would be a consulting fee. Deputy Roosma stated that the goal of a committee would be to branch out and look at other options and that he personally feels that there would be a conflict of interest if the insurance company is involved in the committee. Mr. Dan Fagen explained that Financial Arts is a broker and they use all different companies. He further explained that they are also the broker for Kankakee Valley Schools and they use Anthem for KV, not Key Benefits. Deputy Roosma expressed concern that, if Financial Arts did not provide options for other companies originally, it might be a conflict to involve them now in the committee process. Mr. Maxwell stated that the County did receive quotes from other companies but no one really wants to insure the County with the amount of claims we have. Diana Birky, Chaplain for the Sheriff's Department since 2010, prepared a letter that she read aloud. She cited various situations the Corrections Officers, Dispatchers and Merit Officers encounter on a daily basis. She's concerned with losing Officers to other employment. She explained that the increase in the health insurance premiums has created a hardship on Officers that are supporting their wives that stay home to raise their children or wives they are putting through school. She believes it is the County's duty to shop around for the best insurance deal or to come up with a solution to help them provide for their families. Mr. Culp thanked her for her comments and stated that he agrees that the Sheriff's Department is a well-run department. He then thanked the Officers for coming to the meeting.

DAN FAGEN / JACK FAGEN / FINANCIAL ARTS: Mr. Fagen and Mr. Fagen were present to obtain signatures on Amendment #2 to the Jasper County Government Health Plan. Mr. Jack Fagen stated that they decided to restate the Plan Document, which includes any amendments from the previous two years. He said he is concerned with some of the language in the new Prescription Benefit Manager in the Plan Document, being that it is slightly different than he expected. They are working with Key Benefit for clarification. The Commissioners signed Amendment #2 and the Cobra Continuation Coverage Premium document. Mr. Fagen and Mr. Fagen also presented the Commissioners with the Reinstatement Document for signatures.

DIANA BOERSMA / NEW SIGN AT ANNEX / CLAIMS: Mrs. Boersma brought a picture of the new sign at the Annex. She said she would like to add lights in the future. Mr. Culp informed her that the State Board of Accounts needs receipts for claims for postage, telephone and office supplies.

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 4, 2017**

CLAIMS: Mr. Culp stated that he had a question on a claim for a bullet proof vase. He received clarification that the item is a bullet proof vest, not vase. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the claims, as presented. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

PURDUE EXTENSION AGREEMENT: Mr. Culp stated that this is an annual contractual services agreement with Purdue University. Purdue pays for their personnel and health care expenses and the County pays Purdue a flat amount. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the signing of the agreement. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

VACATION DAY EXTENSION REQUEST: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the extension of five vacation days for Clair Beaver to be used by January 31, 2018. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

COMPENSATION TIME EXTENSION REQUEST: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve a thirty day extension for Regina Coulter to use approximately eight hours of compensation time. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

CL VENDING AGREEMENT: Attorney Beaver stated that he has reviewed the contract from CL Vending and does not see any issues with it. He did point out that there is no monetary benefit to the County. The County would be responsible for damage to the inventory and the machines. Mr. Culp stated that CL Vending was unable to allow placement of a machine at the Annex due to the smaller number of people in the building. Auditor Grow stated that the machines have been installed and everyone seems to be happy with them from what she's heard. Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve the CL Vending agreement. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ANIMAL SHELTER / MONDAY CLOSURE: Auditor Grow informed the Commissioners that the Animal Shelter is closed on Mondays. Mr. Culp advised checking the minutes for days and hours of operation.

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT POLICY: Auditor Grow stated that she wanted to remind the Commissioners that the County does have an investment policy. Mr. Culp stated that it's handled in January and then asked if Mrs. Jordan has set a date for the Board of Finance meeting. Auditor Grow replied that she has not.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / AMBULANCE CONTRACTS: Attorney Beaver presented the Commissioners with the ambulance contracts for their signatures. The Southern Jasper County contract was revised to state that Southern Jasper County would be responsible for arranging the provision of advanced life support ambulances that are certified by the State of Indiana EMS Commission and staffed with a paramedic when necessary and Southern Jasper County may enter into agreements with third parties to provide staffed advanced life support ambulances. These are one year contracts with the Township providers.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / JASPER COUNTY CODE: Attorney Beaver stated that the Code is complete. It's been put in to one document in PDF form and is 596 pages long. The Code is current through the last ordinance that was passed at the November meeting. He presented the Commissioners with an ordinance that will formally accept the Code. Mr. Culp read the ordinance aloud. There was no public comment regarding the ordinance. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the ordinance. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Attorney Beaver explained that the Code is available on the County's web site. There's a search bar that can be typed in similar to google. It can also be navigated by headings within the Code. He said that one printed version of the Code should be kept in the Auditor's Office. He suggests that there also be one kept in the Commissioners room as well as in the Planning and Development Office. He thinks Attorney Sammons and Attorney Monfort should have a copy, as well as a copy for himself. As new ordinances are passed, Code Publishing will send the County new pages to insert and/or remove pages from the Code. His concern is that it may be difficult to ensure every copy is current if there are too many printed copies. He believes that most people will rely on the online version, which will be kept current at all times. Code Publishing will print the Code at cost, which is \$0.10 per page for black and white and \$0.25 per page for colored. They will also provide binders at cost. A complete colored copy of the Code would cost \$97.25.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

ATTORNEY BEAVER / JASPER COUNTY CODE CONT'D: Mr. Walstra made a motion to approve six copies of the Code to be printed by Code Publishing. Mr. Maxwell seconded and the motion carried.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / ELLAS CONSTRUCTION: Attorney Beaver presented the Commissioners with a release from Ellas Construction. Ellas is completed with the 231 Bridge project and will no longer be using the site of the old Johnny Rusk building as a staging area. Mr. Maxwell stated that the concrete pad has been removed and there is only dirt remaining. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve signing the release for Ellas Construction. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. There was discussion about what to do with the site. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Pickering if the Downtown Plan is looking at the site. He replied that they should have some drawings and ideas within the next two weeks. The Commissioners agreed to wait to make a decision.

RORY HILL / RESUME: Mr. Hill stated that he submitted a resume to the Commissioners in October for the EMA Director position for 2018. Mr. Culp replied that they've seen it and that Board Appointments are usually done in January.

At this time, there was a five minute break.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / JUSTICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Attorney Beaver stated that he received an email from the supervisor within the audit division with several questions pertaining to the procedures within the Treasurer's Office. He met with Mrs. Jordan and responded to the Justice Department with a very lengthy email back to the supervisor in the audit division. He then received more questions. He has since forwarded it to Mrs. Jordan and she is trying to explain as much as she can. He will then get the information back to the DOJ Auditor. He said it's likely they will have to modify procedures within the Treasurer's Office, with more items being covered. All other procedures were found to be acceptable. He is hopeful to have something for the Commissioners at the next meeting.

ATTORNEY BEAVER / COMBINING PARCELS: Attorney Beaver stated that he received a tentative answer regarding combinations of contiguous parcels. There is a statute that says the Assessor needs to combine the parcels under certain circumstances. The problem is that the Statute sets out clear duties; however, it does not say how to do things. The statute states that contiguous parcels that are owned by the same owner, even if in different taxing districts or in different sections, shall be consolidated by the Assessor upon a written request from a landowner. He stated that one of the concerns is that Deputy Auditor Shannon Kellner had previously received legal advice from a Department of Local Government Finance attorney who is no longer employed at that office. The advice was to require a deed for an Assessor's consolidation. The statute that covered this has been changed since the advice was given. He said it's clear that there does not need to be a deed for the Auditor to process a consolidation that is done by the Assessor. Another question that has arisen is consolidating parcels in different taxing districts. He said there is a statute that requires it to be done. The question now is how it should be done. He said he was under the impression that the GUTS property numbering system will not allow parcels to be in separate taxing districts and will require separate tax identification numbers. He said he now does not believe that is the case and that Auditor Grow will be checking on it. If the system does not allow it, he thinks we can figure out some manual way around it. We would then more than likely need some type of inter-local agreement to determine taxes when there is a part of a parcel in a municipality and part is in the unincorporated county area. He said since the email he sent to DLGF in August has not been answered, we can try to figure it out on our own. Deputy Auditor Linda Armstrong stated that she disagrees with combining taxing districts because they each have their own rates and no two townships have the same rate. It would basically be like changing a township boundary line. Auditor Grow stated that we are ok with combining as long as the owners are the identical and they are in the same taxing unit. They stated that the Assessor agrees. Attorney Beaver asked if it's possible to have special parcel numbers for property that's in more than one taxing unit. Mrs. Armstrong replied that it's not possible because tax rates are sent by the State and they're all assigned to each township. Attorney Beaver stated that a unique parcel identifier can be created for a parcel that's in more than one district. He said the tax rate could be figured out by pro-rating.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
DECEMBER 4, 2017**

ATTORNEY BEAVER / COMBINING PARCELS CONT'D: You would take the tax rate for each parcel, double-it and combine it in to an average. The tax revenues would then be distributed to the townships. Mr. Culp asked if the statute states that this has to be done. Attorney Beaver then read the statute aloud. The statute states that the official shall, by request of the owner, combine the parcels. Mrs. Hoffman stated that there are very few that straddle taxing districts and there has never been a request from a taxpayer to combine two parcels that are in different taxing districts. Mrs. Armstrong stated that her office has received requests where, for example, the house sits on the road and is in DeMotte limits and there is a separate parcel behind the house that sits in Keener Township and they've asked that they be combined. They would then explain to the taxpayer that they pay two different tax rates. They've never received complaints about it. Mr. Culp asked how a house that straddles two townships would be taxed. Mrs. Hoffman replied that, whatever township the majority of the house is located in would get the revenue. Attorney Beaver then read another excerpt from the statute stating that, if the Assessor is aware the building has a contiguous parcel, it is the Assessor's duty to combine the parcels. He then stated that, if it's literally impossible to comply with the statute, it may have to be something that we make a note of. Attorney Beaver stated that annexation can also affect consolidation. The annexation law was changed to allow the Commissioners to oppose annexation by municipality. Attorney Beaver also mentioned drainage assessments as a reason a taxpayer may submit a request for consolidation. Combining contiguous parcels would result in one assessment as opposed to one assessment for each parcel. Mr. Urbano stated that his department receives a lot of complaints regarding multiple drainage assessments. Mr. Culp asked Auditor Grow if the main concern is combining property that is located in multiple taxing units. She replied that it is and she has a call in to GUTS regarding what the system will allow us to do. He stated that he understands the points that Mrs. Armstrong brought up and would hope that a taxpayer wouldn't pursue the issue once it was explained to them. Mr. Culp stated that we will address this issue if and when it comes up. He stated that he'll have to meet with Mrs. Kellner at a later date.

TRANE / RELEASE FOR ACCESS TO UTILITY BILLS: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to allow Trane to have access to the County's utility usage information from the City of Rensselaer. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.

JACK HABERLIN / HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Mr. Haberlin stated that the Highway Department will be holding their Christmas luncheon on Friday, December 15, 2017 at 11:00. On January 2, 2018, they will open bids for stone. Mr. Culp asked if road lists are put together. Mr. Haberlin will talk to Mrs. Ackerman regarding road lists.

CITIZEN TOM MATHIS: Mr. Mathis was present questioning what has transpired since he was here previously to discuss codification and taxation of properties. He stated that there are property uses that aren't reflected on the Assessor's website. There is also property that is not zoned properly. He said he has found many businesses in rural areas that are zoned residential. He stated that DLGF's website states to contact the Auditor if the codes are incorrect. Mr. Culp told him that he can make an appointment with the Auditor if he'd like. He said he did turn in a couple pages last year that weren't coded properly. Mr. Maxwell said that he knows Mrs. Scheurich looked in to a couple for him. Mr. Mathis stated that Nagel, located east of State Road 49, has twenty or thirty vehicles on his property so it's obvious he's running some type of vehicle repair business. Also, Chip Cambe has twenty semi-trailers on his property. The property is not zoned for that type of activity, nor is it reflected on the tax rolls. He said he's tried numerous times throughout the years to get some clarification. He said he sees there's effort being made by the County with work being done with the Code; however, he feels like there is a lack of enforcement. He said he's been attending other municipalities' meetings and looking at their codes. One municipality has an ordinance violations bureau. He said that Bryan DeKock, who was in last year to discuss the frost law, has tractors and trailers all over his property. He mentioned Indiana Code 33-36-2-3, which covers the establishment of an ordinance violations bureau along with fines. Mr. Culp stated that they have looked in to a bureau in the past. He stated that RDNP Drilling is now selling classic cars on their property. He said he can hear the soda blaster running 1/8th of a mile away with his garage door closed. He said that Attorney Cal Bellamy in Lake County has created a shared ethics advisory committee. He would like to see consistent enforcement.

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DECEMBER 4, 2017**

COMMISSIONERS MEETING AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULES: Deputy Auditor Tina Porter stated that Umbaugh recommended joint sessions and quarterly meetings. When drafting the schedule, the quarterly meetings were penciled in for immediately prior to the Council meetings in January, April, August and November and the joint sessions penciled in following the quarterly meetings in April and November. The quarterly meetings would only be for Mr. Bontreger, Mr. Culp and Auditor Grow. The holiday schedule is based off the 2017 holiday schedule with the addition of two days for elections, May 8<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion about holding the joint session prior to the budget adoption in September. It was decided on amongst the Commissioners that the joint sessions will be held on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. and November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the 2018 holiday schedule for county employees. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried. Attorney Beaver stated that there is an ordinance that pre-dates the handbook that states what the holidays are. He will revise it to state what the holidays are and will bring it to the next meeting.

COMBINING PARCELS CONT'D: Auditor Grow stated that she wants to make sure that we have something signed by the taxpayer stating that they want the parcels combined. Attorney Beaver stated that, the way the statute reads, the taxpayer is supposed to provide the legal description. If they do not make the request and the building sits on two parcels, the Assessor can provide the documentation.

This meeting now stands in recess.

### **AFTER THE DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

LANCE STRANGE & STACEY WEBB / CASA / YOUTH CENTER: Mr. Strange and Mrs. Webb were present. Mr. Strange stated that they were made aware approximately four months ago that they're operating the childcare and youth areas out of state regulation. The State thought they were two separate entities when in fact they are one entity. They've been told that they cannot have anyone from the public in the building, including CASA. He said they did inform CASA before any action was made. They are currently not using the south part of the building to stay within state regulations. Mrs. Webb stated that as long as the CASA office has separate access to the building and separate restrooms they could remain in the same building, but that would require remodeling or construction. Mr. Culp asked if they use the southeast room. Mr. Strange replied that, when kids are there, the southeast room is used for a quiet area to do homework. They also use it for meetings once a month and have allowed CASA to use it in the past for training. Usually, training takes place for one full week once a year to train the new CASA volunteers. The old closet was converted in to office space and the other office has the window that looks out in to the foyer area occupied by CASA. Mr. Culp asked Mr. Strange if they could get by without using the southeast room. He replied that the main reason they wanted that area was for studying. Mr. Culp asked if CASA uses the big room after hours. Mr. Strange replied that they've used the smaller room to the south. Mrs. Webb mentioned that the staff has also used the large room for CPR training. There was discussion about adding a bathroom. Being that the building is on a slab, plumbing will be the biggest obstacle. Mrs. Webb stated that all the kids are in the gym on the other side with the younger kids. The older kids and younger kids cannot be together so the little kids' gym, which is basically a hallway, is currently being occupied by the older kids. Mr. Culp stated that the easy answer is to find CASA another space. Mr. Strange stated that one office is 11 feet 6 inches by 11 feet and the other is 10 ½ feet by 16 ½ feet. Both offices total 299.75 square feet. Auditor Grow mentioned the old Extension Office as a possible space for training. There are restrooms and a kitchen. Mr. Culp asked if they are ready to purchase the building and he replied that they are not. He then stated that they've also been made aware that the heating and cooling system is obsolete. The only thing that will be of use once it's replaced is the ductwork. It is all located in the ceiling, which means it will be very labor intensive. He said, unless there is a plan in place within the next two years, they will be without heating and cooling. The estimated cost of replacement is \$100,000. They are working on a campaign to raise that amount of money, which will take a lot of time. Mr. Maxwell stated that he will stop in the Prosecutor's Office to see if the space there can be used.

COMMISSIONERS 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE: Mr. Maxwell made a motion to approve the Commissioners 2018 meeting schedule. Mr. Walstra seconded and the motion carried.



**AFTER THE DRAINAGE BOARD MEETING**

At this time, there was a short break.

The next meeting will be December 27, 2017. This meeting is now adjourned.

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Kendell Culp, President

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James A. Walstra, Vice President

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Richard E. Maxwell, Member

ATTEST:

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County